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from said second workstation;

a storage unit for storing an indication that a purchase was not acknowledged upon the elapsed time measured by said [acknowledgment] acknowledgement timer exceeding a predetermined acknowledgement timeout period.

54. (Amended) A method for acknowledging the receipt signals relating to bids and offers in an electronic trading system, said electronic trading system including a network and at least first and second workstations coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

sending an offer or bid from the first workstation to the network in response to an initial bid or offer;

receiving the offer or bid from said network at the second workstation;

sending from the second workstation to said network an [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of the receipt of the offer or bid; and

sending from the network to the first and second workstations an indication that the network acknowledges the [acknowledgment] acknowledgement from said second workstation.

55. (Amended) The method according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of:
sending an initial bid or offer from the second workstation to the network; and
receiving an [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of the initial bid or offer from the network at the second workstation.

56. (Amended) The method according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of:
measuring an elapsed confirmation time from receiving the offer or bid from the network at

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the second workstation until the second work station receives from the network the indication that the network received the [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of the transaction from the second workstation; and

storing an indication that the transaction is unconfirmed upon the measured elapsed confirmation time exceeding a predetermined confirmation timeout period.

57. (Amended) The method according to claim 56, further comprising the step of: displaying at the second workstation that a late confirmation was received, after the predetermined confirmation timeout period has expired, at the second workstation the indication that the network received the [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of the receipt of said bid or offer sent from the second workstation.

58. (Amended) The method according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of: measuring an elapsed acknowledgement time from receiving the offer or bid at the network from the first workstation until the network receives the [acknowledgment] acknowledgement from the second workstation; and

storing an indication that the bid or offer transmitted to said second workstation is unacknowledged upon the measured elapsed [acknowledgment] acknowledgement time exceeding a predetermined acknowledgement timeout period.

59. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving at a networked processor an offer or bid from a first workstation in response to an

initial bid or offer;

sending the offer or bid from the networked processor to a second workstation;

receiving an [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of a transaction based on the offer or bid from the second workstation at the networked processor; and

sending from the networked processor to the first and second workstations an indication that the networked processor received the [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of the transaction.

60. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 59 having further computer-executable instructions for performing the following steps:

receiving at the networked processor the initial bid or offer from the second workstation; and

sending an [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of the initial bid or offer from the networked processor to the second workstation.

61. (Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 60 having further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

measuring an elapsed acknowledgement time from receiving the offer or bid at the networked processor from the first workstation until the networked processor receives the [acknowledgment] acknowledgement of the receipt of the bid or offer from the second workstation; and

storing an indication that the receipt of the bid or offer is unacknowledged upon the measured elapsed [acknowledgment] acknowledgement time exceeding a predetermined acknowledgement timeout period.

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62. (Amended) A workstation participating in the exchange of signals, the signals including at least a bid and an offer, the workstation connected to a network, said network connected to at least a second workstation, said workstation comprising:

a receiver for receiving an initial offer or an initial bid;

a processor for processing said initial [bid or] offer or said initial bid;

an output for outputting a first signal to said network, said first signal signaling a bid or an offer in response to said initial offer or initial bid;

said receiver also receiving a second signal wherein said second signal indicates the acknowledgement of a receipt of said first signal by said second workstation.

63. (Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps associated with a purchase comprising a bid and an offer comprising:

transmitting to a network an offer or bid from a first workstation in response to a received initial bid or offer; and

receiving an [acknowledgment] acknowledgement from said network indicating that a workstation originating said initial bid or offer has acknowledged said transmitted offer or bid.

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66. (Amended) The method according to claim 54, wherein the indication that the network acknowledges the [acknowledgment] acknowledgement from said second workstation signifies the completion of a transaction relating to said bid or offer.

Please add the following new claim:

SUB 07
-- 67. (New) A system for exchanging signals relating to at least a bid or an offer, the system comprising:

a network connected to workstations;

a first workstation of said workstations, said first workstation sending a first signal to said network signaling a bid or an offer in response to an initial offer or initial bid;

a second workstation of said workstations, said second workstation receiving a second signal indicative of said bid or said offer transmitted from said first workstation in response to said initial offer or said initial bid from over said network, said second workstation sending an acknowledgement of said bid or said offer received from said first workstation over said network;

said network sending at least a third signal to said first workstation and at least a fourth signal to said second workstation, said at least third and said at least fourth signals indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation. --.

REMARKS

The office action of April 6, 1999, has been carefully reviewed and this paper is responsive thereto.

The office action is summarized as follows:

- The drawings stand objected to;
- Claims 43, 47, 48, 50, 53--64, and 66 stand objected to for minor informalities; and,